

2/12/2021 CCRT Meeting Notes

Attendees: David James, Larry McGee, Terry Harris, Brandon Rakes, Brian Wilkins, Annalee Tobey, Laura Six, Randy Mueller, Daniel Murray, Jill Anderson, Bill Deutscher, Susan DeLaire Jul1234lie, Lindsey Senter, Michael Ervin

Brian Wilkins called the meeting to order at 8:34 in Nicole Sampson's absence.

Port of Chehalis update - Randy Mueller

McCallum Rock Drilling Sale

- Closed sale to McCallum Rock Drilling for \$2.5M.
- McCallum is going to use the new space for consolidating their current locations.
- The new space allows for expansion 3x the current building size.
- They plan to double employment in the next 2-3 years.
- Average starting pay at McCallum is 2x average Chehalis pay.
- Services 8 states in West Coast service area.
- They also sell blasting and drilling equipment.

Costco

- Working with Costco Logistics on new site.
- Service area of 5-6 states.
- These will be Costco employees making this distribution center the exception to the rule of distribution centers that hire contractors at minimum wage.
- These jobs should start a couple dollars above Lewis County's living wage.
- New facility would provide 200 new jobs.
- 1.2 million square feet + 300,000 future phase plan.
- Will be filling low quality marsh land. Mitigation for this project already happened 10 years ago.
- Project is still in process.

- Randy recently testified in front of the house tech subcommittee about high speed internet in rural communities and HB 1336.
- Ports are not currently allowed to provide retail service; they must lease it to other providers. This bill would allow the PUD and Port to provide this service.
- Rep. Abbarno has proposed a separate bill that would provide grants for utility projects that could also cover internet build out. The current system benefits urban areas and leaves rural areas with inferior internet speeds.

Executive Director Report - Annalee Tobey

- Recently attended virtual Main street leadership meeting that happens every quarter. These meetings keep us in contact with our great network of other main street programs in our state that are a great resource for us.
- Main Street added 2 new communities this year. Now 36 communities in WA.
- Annalee is partnering with Teri Zambon from Centralia Downtown Association to talk to Legislature. There is a Bill to increase B&O tax program cap from \$2.5 million to 4 million. One proposed bill increases the percentage from 75 to 90 percent but there is another substitute bill that would not increase that percentage.
- Heritage Caucus meeting had record attendance. Involvement in the government process appears to be up.
- Annalee is on the WA Main Street Advisory Board. She will continue this role for at least 2 more years.

Promotion Committee Report – David James

- Annalee wrote our first shop local based blog post for Valentine’s Day.
- We are currently looking for bloggers to hire to write these posts in the future.
- We completed our first small business social media small business spotlight. Any business that wants to have us do a social post can send us their information.
- Advocate Printing won the RFP for the Chehalis Brochure printing. We are currently working on the design.
- We are contacting Arnett Muldrow to talk with their firm about CCRT’s brand consulting project.

ERC Report – Laura Six

- Grant process review and development is underway
- Totally Pawsome Digital marketing grant approved
- Chehalis Theater facade approved - \$47K project

Design Committee update – Annalee for Emily Von Flotow

- This is planning time for the year’s projects
- Meeting with Twin Transit and partnering on artwork on bus shelters and bus stops
- Larry has spearheaded the litter pickup program
- Randy suggested the youth detention service for cleanup. The Port has had great success with their partnership. Jerry Elliott is the contact.
- There has been an increase in the past 4 weeks with dangerous trash, especially at the Twin City Town Center.
- Laws protect people on public land so there isn’t much a city can do to move people off public property. Private property owners have rights.

Organization Committee update – Annalee for Michele Gallagher

- Creating a review RFP process for Design projects
- They oversee the B&O Tax donation process. We have potential new donors on the B&O list

Good of the Order

Jill Anderson: Chad Taylor has stepped down from city council after purchasing The Chronicle. The Chehalis City Council is accepting applications for the vacancy. The app is available on the city website.